

IN THE SPECIFICATION:

Please replace the paragraph on page 2, lines 6-10 of the filed application with the following amended paragraph:

This application ~~relates to a co-pending~~ claims benefit of U.S. provisional patent application Ser. No. 60/439,380, entitled "Method and Apparatus for a Fiber Optic Housing and Aligning Device" by Giovanni Barbarossa et al., filed on January 10, 2003, which is owned by ~~the assignee of this application and~~ incorporated herein by reference.